

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9300

INFO USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 6717

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, OECD, SW

SUBJECT: ENERGY MINISTER QUESTIONED ON SWEDEN'S ATTITUDE TOWARD
INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY (IEA)

1. FORMER SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC COMMERCE MINISTER KJELL-OLOF
FELDT ATTEMPTED TO GET STATEMENT OF NEW GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE
TO SWEDEN'S CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP IN THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY
AGENCY IN HEATED EXCHANGE OF WORDS IN PARLIAMENT ON DECEMBER 3.
FELDT CONSIDERED NEW ENERGY MINISTER OLOF JOHANSSON SHOULD
MAKE STATEMENT ON SUBJECT SINCE JOHANSSON HAD ONCE STRONGLY
OPPOSED SWEDEN'S MEMBERSHIP IN WHAT HE HAD REFERRED TO AS
"THE US-DOMINATED OIL CONSUMER CLUB" IN 1975 AND ALSO IN VIEW
OF FACT THAT IEA CHAIRMAN ETIENNE DAVIGNON HAD RECENTLY SAID
THAT AGENCY REGARDED IT AS A PROBLEM IF ONE OF ITS MEMBERS
REJECTED NUCLEAR POWER.

2. FELDT HIMSELF WAS STRONG SUPPORTER OF SWEDISH MEMBERSHIP
IN THE IEA BUT SAID LAST FRIDAY THAT THE PICTURE WAS NOW
COMPLICATED BY FACT THAT US, INSTEAD OF REDUCING ITS ENERGY
CONSUMPTION, INTENDED TO INCREASE IT AND IMPORT MORE OIL.

3. ENERGY MINISTER JOHANSSON REPORTEDLY STATED THAT SWEDEN'S
INTEREST IN THE IEA WAS CONNECTED TO FACT THAT
IT COULD PARTICIPATE IN AN OIL ALLOCATION SYSTEM IN EVENT
OF ANOTHER EMBARGO AND IT HAD ALSO PROVIDED THE COUNTRY
WITH BETTER INFORMATION ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL OIL
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MARKET. IEA COLLABORATION HAD ALSO ENABLED SWEDEN TO

TAKE PART IN PROJECTS SUCH AS SOLAR ENERGY AND OTHER RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES. HE SAID COLLABORATION IN NUCLEAR POWER SECTOR HAD CHIEFLY BEEN CONCERNED WITH SAFETY QUESTIONS.

4. PRESS NOTICE OF DEBATE QUOTED MINISTER JOHANSSON AS SAYING: "OUR EXPERIENCES SO FAR HAVE NOT GIVEN THE GOVERNMENT CAUSE TO PLAN ANY CHANGES AS REGARDS SWEDEN'S INVOLVEMENT." FELDT ACCUSED JOHANSSON OF SAYING THAT REASSESSMENT OF SWEDISH MEMBERSHIP WAS BEING DISCUSSED, TO WHICH JOHANSSON IS REPORTED TO HAVE REPLIED: "I HAVE SAID NO SUCH THINGS. WHAT I DID SAY IS THAT OUR FUTURE MEMBERSHIP DEPENDS ON WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS. THE RESULT OF THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOG IN PARIS AND THE WAY IN WHICH WE CAN DRAW THE LINE BETWEEN COLLABORATION AND OUR NEUTRALITY POLICY WILL BE DECISIVE." MINISTER JOHANSSON GAVE ASSURANCES THAT NEITHER THE GOVERNMENT NOR HE HIMSELF WAS PREPARED TO "TIE US UP IN A SUPERNATIONAL INVOLVEMENT FOR AN ENERGY POLICY RUNNING COUNTER TO OUR NEUTRALITY AND SUPPLY SECURITY." JOHANSSON SAID THAT HE HAD EXPRESSED AS MUCH TO THE IEA CHAIRMAN DURING HIS VISIT TO STOCKHOLM RECENTLY.

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